3000 tonnes, which is mainly met through imports. Import of tin has also been permitted under OGL by actual users or export/trading houses. There is no reported shortage of tin in the country. Selling price of imported tin is fixed as per international prices; import duties, MMTC charges etc.

Provision in State budgets for writing off loans to farmers

2622. *SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:* Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many States have not made any provision in their Budgets for writing off loans of farmers as announced in the Central Budget of 1990-91;

(b) if so, what are the names of these States; and

(c) in what manner the Central Government propose to ensure compliance of this scheme by these States?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) Government of India have formulated Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990 for providing debt relief to farmers, landless cultivators, artisans and weavers upto Rs. 1000 by public sector banks and regional rural banks. In so far as the banks in cooperative sector are concerned, State Governments have been requested to frame a scheme on similar pattern. As per reports available so far, a majority of State Governments have agreed to formulate schemes for co-operative banks on the lines of the Central Scheme. Thirteen States have submitted their schemes to the Government and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The Schemes are yet to be received, on date, from 12 States, namely Andhra Pradesh Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Goa Tripura, Sikkim, and the seven Union Territories

(c) The Central Government would meet the full cost of write off in respect of public sector banks and regional rural banks. In case of cooperative banks, 50 per cent of the cost shall be borne by the Government of India, the remaining 50 per cent would be met by State Governments, and to meet their share, State Cooperative Banks and State Land Development Banks can avail concessional loans from NABARD.

Taking over of sick tea gardens

2623. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to take over sick tea gardens to boost exports; and

(b) if so, what is the justification therefor in view of the favourable price conditions in both domestic and international markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) *Does not arise.*

Number of Crop Insurance claims settled by G.I.C.

2624. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have enlarged the areas of working of the General Insurance Corporation in the field of motivation etc.;

(b) what is the number of crop insurance claims settled by the Corporation during the last three years; and

(c) what are the names of States where this crop insurance scheme is applicable?

THE DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) The volume of business of the general insurance industry has gone up from Rs. 1361 Crores in 1986 to Rs. 2248 Crores in 1988-89 (for 15 months' period ending 31.3.89) thereby registering a growth of 65.17 per cent over a period of 3-1|4 years. This shows that there has been enlargement in the business of the general insurance industry. Similarly, there has been improvement in the field of claims settlement also, as is evident from the fact that the rate of settlement of claims has gone up from 69.9 per cent in 1986 to 79.4 per cent in 1988-89 (for 15 months' period ending 31.3.89), indicating adequate notification in this service-oriented industry.

(b) Total claims paid in respect of Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme so far for nine seasons from *Kharif* 1985 to *Kharif* 1989 amount to to Rs. 612.80 crores.

(c) The information regarding names of the States|Union Territories which are implementing the Crop Insurance Scheme is as under—

(1) Andhra Pradesh
(2) Assam
(3) Bihar
(4) Goa
(5) Gujarat
(6) Himachal Pradesh
(7) Kerala
(8) Karnataka
(9) Meghalaya
(10) Maharashtra
(11) Madhya Pradesh
(12) Orissa
(13) Tripura
(14) West Bengal
(15) Tamil Nadu
(16) Andaman & Nicobar
(17) Pondicherry

Accident at Bhilai Steel Plant

2625. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a serious accident at Bhilai Steel Plant on the 5th August, 1990; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) what were the causes of the accident;

(c) how many workers died in the accident;

(d) what are the details of other losses suffered as a consequence thereof; and

(e) whether the safety provisions at the Plant were adequate and up-to-date and were functioning?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) On August 4, 1990 at Bhilai Steel Plant when Blast Furnace No. 7 was being opened for tapping; it was observed that metal was oozing out between upper hearth bottom cooler No. 4 and coolers No. 3 and 4. This led to the hearth break out at Blast Furnance No. 7 and spillage of hot metal.

(b) As per the Enquiry Committee the hearth break out occurred due to engineering design parameters of the Blast Furnace.

(c) Unfortunately, one worker died in this accident.

(d) There was a spillage of about 50 tonnes of metal and some quantity of slag. The total value of the material is estimated at Rs. 1.64 lakhs. The material has been recovered as iron scrap which is proposed to be sold to the market and, as such the loss will be minimal.

(e) Yes, Sir.